

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TECH IN

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT

1. THE INDIAN PRESS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 27 THE GOI'S AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA ON SAFEGUARDS FOR THE SOVIET SUPPLY OF HEAVY WATER, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS ENABLED THE COMMISSIONING OF RAPP II. THE INDIAN EXPRESS SAID THAT INDIA MAY NOW GET HEAVY WATER FROM OTHER SOURCES BECAUSE THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO SUCH SUPPLIERS. G.K. REDDY IN THE HINDU NOTED THAT THE COMPLETION OF RAPP II HAD BEEN DELAYED ALMOST THREE YEARS BY THE "SUSPENSION OF CANADIAN COOPERATION" BUT ITS COMMISSIONING WOULD ENHANCE INDIA'S PRESTIGE BY DEMONSTRATING TO THE WORLD IT COULD DESIGN AND BUILD REACTORS ON ITS OWN WITHOUT RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON FOREIGN COLLABORATION.

2. THE INDIAN PRESS CARRIED A NUMBER OF INTERPRETIVE ARTICLES ON THE AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 28 MOSTLY BASED ON A SAMACHAR DISPATCH. CONGEN BOMBAY REPORTED THAT THE BOMBAY EDITIONS OF BOTH THE TIMES OF INDIA AND ECONOMIC TIMES FRONT PAGE SAMACHAR DISPATCH WITH A DELHI DATELINE REPORTING THAT INDIA HAS AGREED TO
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PLACE BOTH RAPP I AND II UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. STORIES GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A "NORMAL DEVELOPMENT" WHICH WOULD HAVE OCCURRED IN ANY CASE HAD CANADA CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FOR THESE PROJECTS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR RUSSIAN HEAVY WATER CITED AS COMPELLING FORCE FOR PUTTING THESE INSTALLATIONS UNDER SAFEGUARDS NOW. BOTH STORIES, HOWEVER, ENDED WITH STATEMENT THAT INDIA REMAINS OPPOSED

TO PUTTING FACILITIES THAT ARE ENTIRELY "INDIGENOUSLY"
DEVELOPED UNDER SAFEGUARDS IN SPITE OF RENEWED PRESSURE
FOR THIS ACTION FROM THE LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP.

3. VERSIONS OF THE SAMACHAR ARTICLE IN THE HINDUSTAN
TIMES AND THE HINDU SAID THAT "THERE WERE INDICATIONS"
THAT CANADA MAY WANT TO RESUME COOPERATION WITH INDIA
IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD BUT THAT SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE
THAT CANADA IS WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE CURRENT
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US ON TARAPUR. THE
ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE US INSISTING THAT INDIA
AGREE TO ALLOW IAEA INSPECTION OF ALL INDIAN NUCLEAR
INSTALLATIONS. REFERRING TO THE LONDON SUPPLIERS
CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT, THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT SINCE
PRACTICALLY ALL COUNTRIES ADVANCED IN NUCLEAR
TECHNOLOGY ARE MEMBERS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL
HAVE "VERY LITTLE CHOICE" IN CONTINUING NUCLEAR ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT BY KEEPING OPEN ALL THEIR NUCLEAR
FACILITIES FOR IAEA INSPECTION.

4. SEPTEMBER 29, THE INDIAN EXPRESS RAN ARTICLE
HEADLINED "SUPPLY OF US URANIUM ON IAEA TERMS LIKELY."
ARTICLE SAID THAT SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT ON THE SOVIET HEAVY
WATER "MAY WELL BECOME BASIS" FOR RESOLVING PROBLEM OF
US SUPPLY FOR TARAPUR. AS FOR US INSISTENCE THAT SAFEGUARDS
"COVER ANY USE OF TARAPUR MATERIALS ELSEWHERE," INDIA
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COULD MEET THIS DEMAND HALFWAY BY AGREEING TO ALLOW US
AUTHORITIES TO "SATISFY THEMSELVES" THAT THE SUPPLY FOR
TARAPUR IS NOT DIVERTED ELSEWHERE "EVEN AS A BY-PRODUCT."
ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS INITIALLY
INSISTED THAT SAFEGUARDS COVER BOTH RAPP I AND II, THE
INDIAN VIEW THAT RAPP I SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED SINCE IT
WAS BUILT WITHOUT SOVIET HELP WAS "ULTIMATELY AGREED TO"
BY THE IAEA. GOHEEN

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Disposition Event:
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